

Spirit of the Age.

RALEIGH, N. C.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS:
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THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.—Knowing the anxiety of all to read this important State paper, we have laid it before our readers, to the exclusion of our usual variety. Gov. Vance, in this communication to the General Assembly, manifests a patriotic solicitude for the welfare and protection of the State—her soldiers and citizens, her soil and her property—and we believe will do all he can for the promotion of these objects. But while he recommends that steps should be taken for the suppression of extortion and speculation, yet we fear the plan proposed will prove inadequate. The imposition of taxes will not prevent speculation—it will only increase exorbitant prices—for the consumer will be made to pay the tax by the increased price. It should be interdicted by heavy fine and imprisonment, for nothing else will stop the nefarious business. We are aware it is a difficult and delicate question to adjust so as not to trench on individual rights, but in the good of the whole should be looked to even though the few should suffer some hardships thereby.

The course of Gov. Vance in taking steps for buying corn and pork from the lower counties will commend itself to the gratitude of the people of all sections; as will also his recommendation concerning distilling grain into whiskey. Indeed, the message evinces prudence, sagacity and firmness, and will meet with general approbation at the hands of the people.

A letter from the writer of the one referred to in our last, written in July and mailed at Henderson in November, informs us that the (writer) was to blame and not the Postmaster, as he never deposited the letter in the P. O. (although he positively assured us he did in July last) until the day it was mailed. We therefore ask pardon of the Postmaster for blaming him when not guilty of neglect of duty, and at the same time lay the blame on the writer, who should have explained to us all about the delay when he mailed the letter.

Mon. Geo. W. Randolph has resigned his position as Secretary of War, and Gen. Gustavus W. Smith has been appointed to fill the vacancy ad interim. This resignation has given rise to much speculation as to the cause at such a time and so unexpectedly. It is confidently stated to have been occasioned by a refusal of Mr. Randolph to bear the responsibilities of his position, while President Davis managed the office without regard to the Secretary's views. Hon. James A. Seddon is reported to have been tendered the office of Secretary of War, and has accepted the appointment.

The North Carolina Presbyterian, on the recommendation of Synod, has advanced the subscription price of that paper to \$2.50 per annum. Among the reasons stated for the advance, we notice the following, viz: "The receipts have not paid expenses the past year." Now this is exactly the case with us; and of late, our receipts are greatly diminished. We feel constrained, therefore, to call upon all our subscribers to give us their aid in procuring renewals from old subscribers, and new names to our list. We must have more subscribers at \$1.50; or else increase the subscription price to \$2; or abandon the publication and go to something else that will afford us a living. Will not every one try and get us two, four, eight, ten or more subscribers by the Christmas time? We earnestly appeal to all for help.

We are authorized to state that the Wilmington Journal is authorized to deny the reported death of Captain W. J. Houston, of Duplin. Mrs. Houston has received a letter from a member of his company, stating that his horse was shot from under him, and that he was captured by the enemy.

Our State Finances.

We are under obligations to our faithful and able State Treasurer, Hon. D. W. Courts, for a copy of his Report to the Legislature making an exhibit of the finances of the State, its indebtedness, resources, cash on hand, &c. The crowded state of our columns this week preclude the possibility of giving any extracts from the report, or of giving a brief abstract thereof. We must be content, therefore, with simply saying, that the same skillful and wise management of this department that has characterized Treasurer Courts' long administration, is sustained in the heavy operations for the last two years; our State Bonds still bringing from 25 to 30 cents premium.

It is a matter of just pride and congratulation to every citizen of North Carolina, as a contemporary remarks, to see the credit of the State established on a basis which commands the confidence of the country. Prior to the destruction of the old Government, there were few, if any, of the States whose stocks stood above those of North Carolina in Wall street; and now although we are in the throes of a bloody and expensive war, they stand in the money market of Richmond largely above par, and ahead of those of the States of the Confederacy. These facts are easily accounted for. The finances of North Carolina have been faithfully and skillfully managed. So much so, in fact, as to have frequently called forth, in times of commendation of such Journals as Hunt's Magazine, the Journal of Commerce, and other papers whose knowledge and sagacity made their opinion worth having.

The Comptroller of Georgia in his recent report says that about sixty million bushels of corn was raised in that State this year! And yet it is selling here at \$2 per bushel! In Georgia it sells for \$1.50 to \$2 per barrel.

THE LIQUOR BUSINESS.—A bill has been introduced in the Alabama Legislature, imposing a penalty of two years imprisonment in the Penitentiary on any person found guilty of distilling liquor from corn, rye or wheat, and a fine of one hundred dollars on any one selling directly or indirectly, any spirituous liquors, or one year's imprisonment in case the defendant is insolvent.

The Examiner of Friday says: There is no news of interest from the region beyond Gordonsville. Seventy odd Abolition prisoners, picked up at different times during the current week, were brought to Richmond by the Central train yesterday evening.

REVIVAL.—A revival is going on in Salisbury. Many have been converted and many continue to flock to the altar.

State Legislature.

The Legislature of North Carolina convened in the Capitol on the 17th, and the two Houses were organized by the election of the following officers, viz: In the Senate, Giles Mebane of Alamance, Speaker; C. R. Thomas of Carteret and L. C. Edwards of Granville, Clerks; W. J. Page and C. C. Tally, Doorkeepers.

In the House, Hon. Robt. B. Gilliam of Granville, Speaker; Henry E. Colton and John A. Stanly, Clerks; and Messrs. Webster and Hill Doorkeepers.

Committees were appointed to notify the Governor of the organization of the two Houses and then they adjourned.

On the 18th, several members absent on the day previous, made their appearance, were qualified and took their seats. The Governor's Message was received and read in the two Houses; W. W. Holden, Esq., was elected State Printer; and a resolution adopted to purchase a copy of the Ordinances of the State Convention for each member of the Legislature.

A resolution was introduced, to instruct the Judiciary committee to prepare a bill, if practicable, to meet the exigencies of the times concerning speculators and extortioners. No other business transacted.

On the 19th, in the Senate, a resolution was offered by Mr. Murrill in effect that the Confederate Congress by exempting in the late Exemption bill, persons owning a certain number of slaves and a certain quantity of sheep made an unwise, and in the opinion of this General Assembly, an unconstitutional discrimination, that the Confederate Senators from this State be requested to urge its repeal immediately. Read 1st time and referred to the Committee of the Judiciary.

A message was sent to the House proposing to raise a joint committee to wait on His Excellency, the Governor, and inform him that the two Houses were ready to receive any communication he might desire to make in person, and which required consideration in secret session.

The Committee reported that the Governor would communicate with them at 1 o'clock, P. M.

In the House of Commons, on the 19th, Mr. Love introduced a bill to prevent, during the present war, extortion and monopoly, and to punish the same. Read the first time and ordered to be printed. The provisions of the bill are very stringent, and well calculated to effect the laudable purpose intended. Six months imprisonment and heavy fines are imposed against those convicted of extortion in charging unreasonable prices, or purchasing the necessities of life for the purpose of speculation. Directors of corporations are severally liable to the penalties. A jury is to judge of the fact whether the prices are extortionate or otherwise.

Mr. Lyle introduced a bill concerning roads, read the first time. It extends the age of persons liable to work the public roads, white persons from sixteen to sixty, free negroes from fourteen to sixty.

Mr. Powle, from the committee on his resolution relative to the purchase of provisions, reported a bill which was read and ordered to be printed. It authorizes the purchase of provisions in the Eastern section of the State, to be conveyed to the interior and there disposed of, at prime cost, to the families of those engaged in the military service of the State, and appropriates \$300,000 for that purpose.

Mr. Peebles introduced a bill concerning Sheriffs, read and ordered to be printed. It proposes to elect the Sheriffs for four years, and makes them ineligible for re-election, until after the expiration of one term.

Mr. Harris, of Cabarrus, introduced a bill, to continue the Ordinance of the Convention, prohibiting the distillation of spirits from grain, to January, 1865.—Read and referred to Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Kirby introduced a bill, to authorize the Governor to seize, for public purposes, corn, grain, meat, cotton and woolen goods, and all other articles of prime necessity, and make compensation for the same.

On motion of Mr. Shepherd a committee of three was appointed to make arrangements for the reception of the Governor and the Senate. Messrs. Shepherd, Waddell and Person were appointed.

At 1 o'clock the Senate entered the Commons Hall and the General Assembly went into secret session. In Senate, on the 20th, bills and resolutions to the following effect were offered: For establishing a new judicial circuit; for the more prompt and efficient clothing of N. C. troops; for imposing a tax of 25 per cent. on the net income of speculators; for requiring all persons between the ages of 14 and 50 to work on the roads; for continuing the law prohibiting the distilling whiskey out of grain; for giving to married women, in addition to real estate one-half their personal estate after marriage; to repeal the act known as the "stay law"; all of which were read and referred to appropriate committees.

In the House of Commons on the 20th, bills and resolutions of the following purport were presented, viz: To appoint a committee to enquire into the expediency of establishing a State printing office; to employ slaves at work on the State defences; to abolish the office of State Geologist; to prohibit the sale of property under execution of gold and silver until the Banks resume specie payment, and permitting the tender of Confederate currency—all of which were read first time and referred to the appropriate committees.

The two Houses ballotted for an engrossing clerk, which resulted in the election of Mr. W. A. Huske of Fayetteville.

Nothing of special interest transpired in either House on the 21st. Several important bills were presented and referred.

THE FEVER AT WILMINGTON.—We are pleased to state that the publication of the Daily and Weekly Journal, was resumed on Monday last, and although decreased in size will be none the less a welcome visitor to its readers. Messrs. Fulton and Price deserve the sympathies and support of Wilmingtonians, especially for their heroic determination to remain during the epidemic, and to exert themselves for the alleviation of the sufferings of their fellow citizens.

A few cases of yellow fever still occur, but the power of the disease is broken, and the citizens are returning.

We have not space to compile the length and highly interesting account of the disease given by the Journal. The official reports from the beginning of the disease to the 15th November, show 1,505 cases of yellow fever to have occurred, and 441 deaths; but additional facts warrant the Journal fixing the number of deaths, while a black, in and around the city, at 654!

A WESTERN DEPARTMENT.—The Richmond Examiner of Friday says:

It is stated that Gen. Joseph E. Johnston has been appointed to take command in the West, including those in East and Middle Tennessee and the army the Mississippi, will be consolidated under his command; and his Department will be known generally as the Western Department.

Gen. Polk left yesterday for the West.

The News of the Week.

While we have no great battle to record as having occurred since our last, yet the signs of the times portend that in a week or two we may expect the abolition armies to make desperate attacks upon our forces at several points. The enemy has made no advances towards Richmond, but on the contrary, there are indications that he is withdrawing his forces from Northern Virginia with a view of renewing his attack upon Richmond from the south side. The large force he has been concentrating at Suffolk and their recent movements, indicate a junction with the army now in Northern Virginia.

In our State, the armies operating on the Tar and Neuse rivers seem to have gone to parts unknown, their whereabouts at present being unannounced. It is said, however, that a large army of 20,000, or upwards, has been massed at Newbern, preparatory to a trip up the Neuse. The frequent recent attempts to cross the Blackwater, would seem to prefigure an attack on the Railroads that intersect at Weldon. Wilmington will also probably receive their attention also, as soon as the yellow fever disappears.

Charleston, Savannah and Mobile are marked objects for the wrath of the Vandals, and their bombardment may be looked for soon. Determined resistance to the last extremity is the determination of commanders and citizens.

The expedition fitting out against Vicksburg will soon be ready, so the yankees say. It is to be a heavy attack by land and water, and they are confident of success; but our defences have been greatly strengthened there since the former unsuccessful attempt to reduce the city.

The situation of our armies in the west, commands the deepest interest at this time. Gen. Joseph E. Johnson has been assigned to the command, and it is believed that in a few weeks he will be encompassed with a yankee force of three hundred thousand men. Buell's army, 80,000 strong, will be in Middle Tennessee, occupying all the territory between Memphis and Charleston railroad and the Cumberland river, ravaging North Alabama and threatening Chattanooga and East Tennessee. Even now an immense corps, represented as 60 or 70,000 strong, under Gen. Rosencrantz, is advancing upon Holly Springs. It is likely that another heavy division under the command of the same wily general, will proceed down the Mobile and Ohio railroad. Brute Butler is to be largely reinforced, thus enabling him to proceed up the Mississippi river, accompanied by his fleet. An immense number of gunboats are being built for operations on the river. Vicksburg, the heroic city, is to be invested by vast land forces in conjunction with the powerful fleet under Porter.

Recent advices from Nashville represent a strong probability that that city will be the theatre of active hostilities within a very few days. There are said to be about eight thousand Abolition troops in the city. These are under the command of General Negley, the hero of 'Hog Mountain,' near Chattanooga. His reinforcements are represented as being cut off on the Louisville and Nashville railroad, by our bridge burning guerrillas.—All the roads leading to Nashville are represented as being strongly invested by our cavalry and we have a large picket force of infantry advanced from Laverne. General Breckinridge's headquarters are at Murfreesboro', thirty miles from Nashville by the Pike road, twenty eight by railroad. It would appear from this account of the situation, that the enemy in Nashville is cut off from supplies, and is altogether in a "tight place."

Hon. Wm. Ballard Preston, one of the Confederate Senators from Virginia, died at his residence on the 14th inst.

The Legislature of Georgia has elected Hon. Herschell V. Johnson Confederate Senator from that State.

The abolitionists from Suffolk have made several attempts recently to cross the Blackwater river and make their way into the interior of the country, but have been beaten back several times. The last demonstration was on the 18th, when they attempted to cross at Franklin under cover of shells from their gunboats; but after two hours resistance by our troops, they retired. We captured 12 or 14 of their men—no loss reported on our side.

Notwithstanding the repeated assertions that a fleet of the enemy's vessels had entered James river, persons from Brandon, on the 18th, assert positively that there is no fleet in the river, nor has there been.

The enemy is making vigorous efforts to again get possession of Fredericksburg, Va. They made a successful raid into the city with a handful of cavalry, taking our forces by surprise, but on resistance being offered they left. Since then they have been attempting to cross the river and take possession of the city in force. They have twice been driven back, after some of the sharpest artillery fighting on both sides. The citizens are said to be full of resolution, and prefer that the town should be laid in ashes than surrendered to the enemy. The Richmond papers of Wednesday report the artillery duel going on that day, our forces maintaining their position and holding the town.

GOOD FOR THE GOVERNOR.—We learn that Governor Vance said recently that he had determined that not another still should be run in this State during his term. He thinks as all other honest people do, that bread is better than whiskey.—*Rail Register.*

"Good for the Governor," we repeat, and so say all who really want the South to conquer in this war. We do hope Gov. Vance will not allow a bushel of corn to be distilled in this State until the war is over. If Government agents are allowed to start distilleries under the plea of making alcohol, it will not be long before nearly all the whiskey-makers will be at work under the pretence of making medicine! and corn will be about five dollars per bushel, and the people will suffer for bread.

Many of the Government agents do not appear to have an uncommon amount of common sense (some of them act as if they had no sense at all) judging from the extravagant manner in which they make contracts for Government supplies, and bid against each other. One Agent alone, in this State, we learn, has had distilled about twenty thousand gallons of whiskey, and he wants to make contracts for more, and will do it if our State authorities allow the corn to be wasted in that way, in violation of the law of North Carolina. No wonder corn is scarce and commanding high prices in certain sections. We have heard of persons buying up and holding on to corn in anticipation of the removal by the Legislature of the restrictions on distilleries. We feel confident that the Legislature will continue the restrictions. The temperance question has nothing to do with the matter now. The question is, shall the people have bread?—*Charlotte Democrat.*

AN ADVANCE TOWARDS NEWBERN.—We learn that a portion of our troops at and about Kinston, including Capt. Starr's Light Battery from this place, recently went within five miles of Newbern and attacked the yankees at Tuscarora, driving them off from and burning their camp there.

Newbern is too strongly fortified to be successfully assailed by any force at our command. The yankees have thrown up strong breastworks in the rear of the town, extending the entire distance from the Neuse to the Trent. On this many heavy guns are mounted, and every tree has been cut down and every hill leveled in front of the works. Besides which they have light batteries in the town and gunboats commanding the open space in front of works from both rivers.

Fayetteville Observer.

FROM FREDERICKSBURG.—Our advices from Fredericksburg are to noon yesterday. The intelligence from that quarter is of a highly important and interesting character, but most of it not proper for present publication. There has been no cannonading on either side since Monday night, but the enemy has been busy putting cannon into position on the Stafford Hills, opposite the town and for a mile above. Nothing is yet positively known of the enemy's strength, but from observations made on Tuesday night, and information from other sources, deemed authentic, nearly the whole Abolition camp fires observed from high points on this side of the river, could be seen stretching over a vast area of country; and eleven Abolitionists captured yesterday in a raid made into Stafford by five of our cavalry, report their forces at one hundred and ten thousand men.

Of our preparations to receive this host, we will not speak, except to say that we believe them to be ample, and know that before the enemy crosses the Rappahannock he must fight.

Burnside, by the very terms of his acceptance of McClellan's policy, it is not likely that he will long sit idly before Fredericksburg. All things considered, we may therefore, we think, safely regard a battle there as imminent. Under this belief, a number of women and negroes were sent out of the town on yesterday, many of them arriving in Richmond last night.

Rich. Examiner, Nov. 20.

YANKEE SPIES.—A Yankee, calling himself Samuel R. Salisbury, a member of the 32nd Ohio volunteers, was arrested, on the line of the Piedmont Railroad, on Saturday last, and brought to this place. He claims to be a deserter, but there is too much reason to suppose that he is a spy, to allow his assertion to decide the matter. He is now confined in our county jail, awaiting the action of the proper military authorities.

Keep a sharp lookout for such men, for it is easy for them to reach the interior of our State from their forces on the coast, and their presence betokens no good.

Greensboro' World.

RICHMOND, NOV. 20.—When the railroad train from Richmond was within one mile of Fredericksburg, this morning, the enemy opened fire upon it without effect. They fired several shots with long range guns, but were repelled. The general situation remains unchanged, the enemy not yet having attempted to cross the river.

No news from our army.

Northern dates of the 16th received. Fremont is put in command of the Department of Washington. All able-bodied negroes at Hampton and Fortress Monroe, have been sent to Washington.

TELETON, N. J., NOV. 14.—Lieut. Col. A. P. Colburn and C. Duane, of the Engineer Corps, both belonging to the Staff of General McClellan, were sent to Washington this morning under arrest, in consequence of orders received here. A report prevails here that other members of General McClellan's staff are to be put under arrest. The charges against them are unknown.

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR.—The Sumter (S. C.) Watchman says: Our venerable, aged citizen, Mrs. Leah McFadden (90 years old in March) has sent us 23 shirts and a number of socks, domestic manufacture, for the soldiers from Sumter District who are most destitute in the army of General Lee. Mrs. McFadden has one hundred and sixty descendants and twenty-five grandsons in the war.

PROMOTED.—We learn that Maj. Peter Mallett, commandant at camp of instruction near this city, has been promoted to a Colonelcy, to take rank from the 15th inst.

SHOES FOR THE SOLDIERS.—The people of Richmond appear to have been thoroughly aroused by the appearance of a Brigade of our gallant troops from the Army of the Potomac on their streets during the late snow storm, many of them being bare-foot. A meeting was forthwith held and committee appointed to collect funds or shoes and clothing. The committees were nearly everywhere met with cordiality, and subscriptions from \$500 down flowed in upon them. Up to Tuesday evening last they had been enabled to purchase 4000 pairs of shoes and they hope to obtain in 8000 pairs "as Richmond's offering of sympathy and affection to her late defenders." Well done Richmond! she has done her part, but we suppose that twenty five Richmonds would scarcely supply the government's deficiency in this particular alone.

To the Editor of the Examiner:

The praiseworthy efforts now being made by the good citizens of Richmond to protect us from the chilling blasts and snows of the coming winter, already upon us, has done our hearts good, as it is almost the only evidence we have had, in any general way, that we were remembered by those for whose safety, comfort and happiness we are perishing our lives to protect. Besides risking our lives amid the horrors of the battle-field, we sacrifice health and undergo hardships of every kind, as it needs no evidence to prove; on the weary march, in exposure to cold, rain and snow, and in the want of necessities for our comfort; and it seems little indeed for these who, from inclination or favorable circumstances, remain at home in comfortable houses, with good fires and warm clothing, to make every effort to at least protect from the inclemency of the winter weather, those to whom they owe not only the possession of those comforts and luxuries, but the safety of themselves and property, and their liberties.

When on the tiresome beat, I look down at my toes, the whole family protruding from two-thirds of a shoe, and red with cold and indignation at their neglect, I cannot help wondering if, after all, there is any such thing as patriotism being recognized or rewarded even with a pair of shoes; and if there is really any difference in governments and people in regard to selfishness and indifference to all but their own interests and comforts. Why, even the Yankees, with all their greediness, have been contributing clothing and contributions from cities and towns to clothe their soldiers in the field, in addition to the liberal supplies of their government; and it is hard indeed if our friends cannot do the same.—And I believe they will, if they will only organize, the same as in Richmond, a committee for that purpose in every city, town and county in the Confederate States. If this could be done, I believe enough money, clothing, blankets, boots and shoes would be contributed to make all our soldiers comfortable, even if other places did half as well as Richmond.

Don't mind what such papers as the Examiner say, for we are not all supplied with shoes and clothing, by a great deal. If those papers give the impression that we are, and that the government has plenty to supply us, of course people will not contribute.

Please do all you can to start a general plan like that in Richmond, and you will receive the thanks of many.

A BAREFOOTED BOY.

WOUNDED AND KILLED.—It takes but little space in the columns of the daily papers; but O! what long household stories and biographies are every one of those strange names that we read over and forget!

"Wounded and killed!" Some eye reads the name to whom it is dear as life, and some heart is struck or broken with the blow made by that name among the list.

It's our Henry, it's our John, or our James, or our Thomas, that lies with his poor broken limbs at the hospital, or white, still, and with ghastly face on the battle field. Alas! for the eyes that read!—alas! for the hearts that feel!

"He was my pretty boy, that I've sung to sleep so many times in my arms!" says the poor mother, bowing her head in anguish that cannot be uttered. "He was my brave, noble husband, the father of my little orphan children! sob's the stricken wife. "He was my darling brother, that I loved so, that I was so proud of!" murmurs the sister amid her tears; and as the terrible stroke falls on each home throughout the land

"Killed and wounded!" Every name in that list is a lightning stroke to some heart, and breaks like thunder over some house, and tall's a long black shadow upon some hearthstone.

MARRIAGES.

On the 11th inst., at the residence of Robert Trawick, Esq., by Rev. W. T. Walters, Mr. W. M. Jewell to Miss Sallie T. Trawick, all of Wake county.

On the 10th inst., by Rev. S. J. Jones, at the residence of Hon. Calvin Graves, Chas. J. Graves, of the U. S. Navy, to Miss Maggie K. Lea, only daughter of Wm. L. A. Jr., dec'd.

DEATHS.

At the Hospital in Petersburg, Va., on the 8th inst., James M. Dorett, Co. E, 26th N. C. Regiment, in the 21st year of his age. Long cherished will be his memory by his fellow soldiers, his amiable disposition having won the admiration of all.

In this City, on the 11th inst., of scarlet fever, Alice Gales, only child of Maj. John W. Cameron, aged two years and six months.

In this City, on the 14th, of scarlet fever, James Walter, son of Rev. Wm. E. and Mrs. Virginia C. Felt, aged three years, seven months and twenty-four days.

In this City, on Tuesday evening, the 18th inst., of scarlet fever, Mary Bernard, daughter of John G. and Mariam C. Williams, aged four years. "What is your life? It is even vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

In this City, on Wednesday night last, of diphtheria, Daniel B. Allen, son of C. B. Allen, Esq., in the 22nd year of his age. Our City could not boast of a more worthy young man than our deceased friend. A sense of duty prompted him to enlist in the war as a private in the Raleigh Rifles, at an early period, but ill health obliged him to ask a discharge. Having recovered as he thought, he again entered the army as an assistant to Commissary Engelhardt of Branch's Brigade, remaining a few months, promptly discharging all duties, until sickness forced his return home. He lingered for some days, enduring patiently his sufferings, but at length sunk in the arms of death. He had been a professor of religion for a few years; was a quiet, unobtrusive Christian, and died in full hope of a blessed immortality. [Con.]